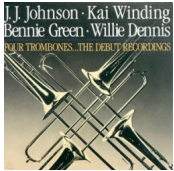


Four Trombones - The Debut Recordings (1953)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 14 December 2011 19:09 - Last Updated Tuesday, 25 November 2014 09:45

Four Trombones - The Debut Recordings (1953)



1. *Wee Dot* 2. *Stardust* [play](#) 3. *Move* 4. *I'll Remember April* 5. *Now's the Time*
6. *Trombosphere* 7. *Ow!* 8. *Chazzanova* Line

up: J.J. Johnson, Kai Winding, Willie Dennis, Bennie Green (trombone), John Lewis (piano), Charles Mingus (bass), Art Taylor (drums).

Recorded live at the Putnam Central Club in Brooklyn in September, 1953, and released later that year, this album documents the first meeting of what would become a well-known trombone duo, Jay & Kai.

The first of these Jazz Workshops featuring four trombonists was issued by Vogue about eighteen months ago. This record presents the same musicians in two extended performances. I gave the first volume five stars, but the present release is more mixed in quality, having the defects as well as the virtues of spontaneity.

Benny Green's solo stands out in *I'll Remember April*. J. J. Johnson relies a little too much on his mannerisms on this side, yet it is he who plays the best trombone choruses—even if some are a little uneven—on *Blues For Some Bones*. Kai Winding and Willie Denis also contribute inventive and contrasting solos. But although all the soloists produce some good jazz, each seems to run short of ideas after a time and be forced to fill in with clichés.

Perhaps the real star of the session is pianist John Lewis. His quiet, but not unemotional, playing succeeds in being original as well as satisfying. ---E.J. , gramophone.net

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